

As a taxpaying and voting resident of the state of Massachusetts I would like to voice my concerns regarding the biomass projects currently under consideration. I was initially in favor of the projects, but it is now clear that biomass will not only NOT solve our energy crisis but also aggravate pollution, with all the consequences that affect patients suffering from emphysema, and other respiratory conditions.

1. the energy produced in order to feed the biomass plant is not a simple "renewable energy": consider the energy expended to cut the trees, the gas used to transport the wood, the burning itself, and you already have a compromised project.

2. the toxic fumes from biomass projects will add to an already polluted atmosphere and speed the global warming process.

3. the long-term financial benefits are at best dubious. Here are a few costs that have not yet been fully included in the current calculations:

- a. the cost of replanting forests: a tree does not grow overnight and by cutting off trees you deprive the area of an important oxygen producing resource. Woods are too often considered as "renewable resource", this term is quite misleading. A renewable resource? certainly. But not overnight, and not without a cost.

- b. long-term health care costs associated with pollution, i.e. respiratory diseases that will necessarily increase with the production of an air saturated with carbon dioxide.

At one time, we thought biomass could provide an answer. Unfortunately, this is not the case. So far, the only clean and safe energy seems to be solar energy. It is still enormously expensive, but we should invest in a durable, clean, truly renewable energy source.

I very much hope that someone, somewhere, will read my objections and pay attention to all the Massachusetts residents and experts who feel the way I do.

Thank you with all my heart and lungs for your kind consideration of this matter.

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